

Kunjarugiri Sri Durga Devi Temple, Kunjarugiri Hill, Udupi, Karnataka

Ref: Google Gemini

The **Kunjarugiri Sri Durga Devi Temple** is an ancient and spiritually vibrant hilltop shrine located in the Udupi district of Karnataka. It is highly revered as one of the seven sacred *Durga Kshetras* of coastal Karnataka (Parashurama Kshetra).

Below is the comprehensive information about the temple organized under your requested headings:

1. Location

- **Address:** Kunjarugiri Hill, Kurkal Village, Udupi District, Karnataka, India – 574105.
- **Proximity:** It is situated roughly 11 km southeast of Udupi city, about 4.4 km from Katpadi (on the National Highway 66), and around 2 km from the Kunjarugiri Cross Road.
- **Altitude:** The temple sits majestically on a hillock (historically known as *Durgabetta* or *Vimanagiri*) elevated approximately 100 to 150 feet above the surrounding plains.

2. How to Get There

- **By Road:** From Udupi or Mangalore, drive down National Highway 66 up to Katpadi. Turn towards Shankarpura/Subhashnagar road at Katpadi Cross and proceed until you reach Kunjarugiri Cross. Local auto-rickshaws and public buses frequently run from Udupi and Katpadi.
- **Reaching the Top:** Devotees can either climb a flight of **257 well-laid stone steps** to experience the traditional approach or utilize the motorable road on the western side of the hill that goes directly near the top layout.
- **By Train:** The nearest major railway station is **Udupi Railway Station (UD)**, approximately 12–13 km away.
- **By Air:** The nearest airport is **Mangaluru International Airport (IXE)**, located about 50 km south of the temple.

3. Speciality of This Temple

- **Outer Darshan:** A unique architectural feature allows devotees to view the main idol clearly from the outer courtyard (*outer yard*) itself, even before entering the inner sanctum.
- **Natural Ambiance:** The temple provides breathtaking 360-degree panoramic views of the Western Ghats on one side and a distant glimpse of the Arabian Sea on the other. It is an exceptional point for sunrise and sunset views.

- **Association with Dvaita Philosophy:** The temple holds monumental significance for the Madhva community, as it is intricately tied to the life of Jagadguru Sri Madhvacharya.

4. History and Legends

- **The Parashurama Connection:** According to regional mythology, the idol of Goddess Durga was installed by **Lord Parashurama** himself during the creation of the coastal region. It is said he placed her on the crest of the hill to act as a permanent guardian and protector of the good.
- **The Name "Vimanagiri":** Legend states that when Parashurama installed the deity, gods and goddesses descended from the heavens in their celestial flying vehicles (*vimanas*) to shower flowers upon the hill, giving it the name *Vimanagiri*.
- **The Name "Kunjarugiri":** The high abodes of Durga and nearby Parashurama structurally resembled a majestic elephant (*Kunjara* in Sanskrit), leading to the name *Kunjarugiri*.
- **Sri Madhvacharya's Childhood:** In the *Sumadhwa Vijaya* (the biographical text of Sri Madhvacharya), it is documented that the Acharya regularly visited this hill in his childhood. In one famous incident, he leaped from the Kunjaru hill straight down to his house in Pajaka, leaving behind his footprint which can still be witnessed today.

5. Architecture

- **Style:** Built in the classical coastal *Kerala-Gothic/Tulu Nadu* style of temple architecture, characterized by its sloped tiled roofs designed to withstand heavy monsoon rainfall, a distinct stone layout, and an inner courtyard (*Prakara*).
- **The Steps:** The historic 257 stone steps carved into the hillside add to the ancient structural grandeur of the pilgrimage climb.

6. Main Deity and Subdeities

- **Main Deity: Chaturbahu Durga Devi** (Four-Armed Durga), also worshipped as *Vana Durga* or *Yogamaya*. The magnificent 3-foot-tall stone idol depicts her standing gracefully on a lotus pedestal.
 - Her upper hands hold the *Shanka* (conch) and *Chakra* (discus) symbolizing cosmic preservation and protection.
 - Her lower hands hold the *Dhanus* (bow) and *Trishula* (trident) signifying the destruction of demonic elements.
 - Her right foot stamps upon the head of the demon **Mahishasura**, whose head is pierced by a thorn, symbolizing the eradication of ignorance and ego (*Ahamkara*).
- **Subdeities:** There is a shrine for **Lord Ganesha** within the complex. Due to its administration by the *Ashta Mathas* of Udupi (specifically associated historically with the **Adamaru Matha**), close ties are kept with local Vaishnava lineages.

7. Daily Rituals, Poojas, and Timings

- **Temple Timings:**

- Morning: 5:00 AM – 12:00 PM
 - Evening: 4:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- **Daily Rituals:** The temple performs early morning *Nirmalya Visarjana*, followed by detailed *Abhisheka*, morning *Alankara Pooja*, afternoon *Mahamangalarathi* (around 12:00 PM), and evening *Ranga Pooja* and *Karthika Pooja* before closure.
 - **Pooja Charges:** Basic offerings like *Archana*, *Kumkumarchana*, and *Pushpanjali* are nominal, typically ranging from **₹20 to ₹100**. For detailed daily/weekly *Abhisheka* or special family *sevas*, the charges generally range between **₹250 to ₹1,000**. (Note: *Exact updated lists are available at the temple's physical booking counter*).

8. Special Poojas and Festivals

- **Special Sevas:** Major offerings include **Ranga Pooja**, **Chandika Homa**, **Durga Namaskara**, and **Maha Pooja**. Depending on the scale of the rituals and materials required, these *sevas* range from **₹1,500 to ₹10,000+** and usually require advanced booking.
- **Festivals Celebrated:**
 - **Navaratri (Dasara):** The biggest annual festival celebrated over 9 days. The temple sees high crowds, vibrant floral decorations, daily special *Alankaras* of the Goddess, and cultural programs.
 - **Dhanurmasa Pooja:** Special early morning rituals during the Hindu month of Dhanurmasa.
 - **Trisankha Pooja & Annual Car Festival (Rathotsava):** Conducted with great pomp involving procession deities.

9. Facilities Available for Devotees

- **Anna Prasada:** Free afternoon meals (*Prasada Bhojana*) are typically served to devotees on specific festival days, Fridays, and crowded weekends.
- **Accommodation:** The hilltop temple itself does not operate massive commercial lodging facilities. However, basic community guest rooms managed by the managing matha can sometimes be availed for short spiritual stays. Most visitors prefer staying in nearby Udupi or Katpadi, which offer a full spectrum of luxury, budget, and family lodgings.
- **Basic Amenities:** Restrooms, drinking water stations, and a parking lot at the foot of the hill (as well as an auxiliary parking space closer to the top via the driving road) are available.

10. Do's and Don'ts

- **Do's:**
 - Dress in modest, respectful traditional attire appropriate for an Orthodox temple ecosystem (e.g., dhotis/veshtis or trousers for men, sarees or salwar-kameez for women).

- Maintain silence and sanctity while climbing the steps or waiting in the darshan line.
- Collect structural or digital receipts for any direct sevas or donations paid at the main offic
- **Don'ts:**
 - Avoid wearing western beachwear, shorts, or sleeveless clothes.
 - Photography and videography inside the *Garbhagriha* (inner sanctum sanctorum) are strictly prohibited.
 - Refrain from littering on the ancient stone steps or around the natural hilly terrain.

11. Nearby Temples & Sacred Sites

- **Sri Parashurama Temple:** Located on a smaller adjacent twin hillock nearby. It features a cave shrine dedicated to Lord Parashurama, who is believed to be in deep penance here.
- **Pajaka Kshetra:** Situated right at the eastern foot of the Kunjarugiri hill, this is the historic **birthplace of Sri Madhvacharya**. It preserves his ancestral home, the *Akshara Abhyasa* stone, and ancient monuments managed by the Kaniyooru Matha.
- **The Four Holy Theerthas:** Four distinct sacred ponds created by Parashurama flank the four directions of the hill: *Gada Theertha*, *Bana Theertha*, *Parashu Theertha*, and *Dhanus Theertha*. Devotees often visit these spots in conjunction with Pajaka.
- **Udupi Sri Krishna Matha:** Located just 11-13 km away in the heart of Udupi.

12. Nearby Hotels & Accommodation Options

Since Kunjarugiri is a quiet village layout, prominent hotels are located within a 5 to 15-minute driving radius:

- **Near Katpadi/Shankarpura:** Local budget residencies and distinct eco-stays such as *Chillies Homestay* and *Panchatattva Homestay* offer authentic local hospitality amidst greenery.
- ****In Udupi City (11 km away):** Excellent options like *Hotel Kediyoor*, *White Lotus*, *Fortune Inn Valley View (Manipal)*, and *Samudra Residency* cater to multi-day travelers.

13. Nearby Tourist Spots

- **Malpe Beach & St. Mary's Island:** Roughly 18 km away; famous for its golden sands and unique columnar basaltic rock formations.
- **Manipal End Point:** Around 8–10 km away; a cliff overlooking the Swarna River valley, highly popular for nature walks.
- **Kaup Lighthouse & Beach:** Located roughly 13 km southwest; a scenic beach featuring an active, historic British-era lighthouse built on rocks.

14. Donation Info and Contact Details

Donations toward temple maintenance, daily *Anna Danam*, and spiritual activities can be directly transacted at the temple management office counter.

- **Administration:** Managed under the lineage of the Ashta Mathas of Udupi.
- **Official Contact Number: 0820-2559444** (Management/Office desk for checking pooja slot availability, checking current seva rates, or routing direct developmental donations).

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****Location:****

Kunjarugiri (also spelled Kunjarugiri or Kunjaru) is a village in Udupi district, Karnataka, India. The temple is perched on Kunjarugiri Hill (also known as Durga Betta or Vimanagiri), about 50 meters above sea level, in the Kurkal grama area. It is roughly 11 km southeast of Udupi city, near Shankarapura, about 5 km from Katpadi, and 2 km from Subhasnagar/Kunjarugiri Cross road. PIN: 574105 or 576120.

****How to get there:****

- ****By road:**** Well-connected by motorable road up to the temple. Buses, taxis, or autos from Udupi. There is also a traditional stairway (250–300 steps) for those preferring to climb.
- ****Nearest major points:**** Udupi Sri Krishna Matha (~11 km), Pajaka Kshetra (birthplace of Madhvacharya, very close ~1-2 km).
- ****Public transport:**** Local buses from Udupi to Katpadi or nearby areas, then short ride/walk. Udupi has good rail and road connectivity from Mangalore, Bangalore, etc.

****Speciality of this temple:****

It is one of the important Durga temples in coastal Karnataka (part of Sapta Durga Kshetras of Tulunadu). The hilltop location offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes, Western Ghats, and sea (the sea is said to be gradually approaching). It combines spiritual significance with natural beauty, attracting devotees, school groups, and tourists. Strong association with Parashurama and Madhvacharya. Managed by Adamaru Math (one of Udupi's Ashta Mathas).

****History and legends:****

Legend credits Lord Parashurama with installing the idol of Durga (Adi Shakti / Kunjar Amma) on the hill. One story says he retrieved a pearl from the sea to make a nose ring for the idol while creating Kerala; to protect it (as the sea reclaims what is taken), he placed it on the hill. The hill resembles an elephant ("Kunjara" in local language), hence the name. Gods are said to have descended by vimana to offer tributes (Vimanagiri). Sri Madhvacharya visited daily in his childhood; a famous legend says he jumped from the temple to Pajaka when called by his mother, leaving footprints on a rock in a cave. There are four theerthas (ponds) created/used by him: Dhanus, Gada, Bana, and Parashu Theerthas. The temple has ancient roots with structures possibly from the Vijayanagara era.

****Architecture:****

The temple is built in traditional coastal Karnataka style with a square plan and sloping roof. It features a main shrine on the hilltop amid lush greenery. There is a Parashurama Temple nearby, theertha mantapa, yaga shale, bhojana shale (dining hall), and other structures. The setting is serene with natural surroundings.

****Main deity and subdeities:****

- ****Main Deity:**** Chaturbhuja (four-armed) Sri Durga Devi (Kunjar Amma), standing on a lotus pedestal. Upper hands hold Shankha (conch) and Chakra (discus); lower hands hold Dhanus (bow) and Trishula (trident). Mahishasura's head is at her feet, symbolizing victory of good over evil.
- ****Subdeities/Associated:**** Lord Parashurama Temple nearby; Parivara Devatas like Raktheshwari and Nadishwara.

****Daily rituals and poojas and their charges:****

The temple is generally open from around 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Specific daily pooja timings and exact charges are best confirmed directly with the temple (as detailed seva lists are often updated locally or via contact). No entry fee; donations are welcome. Common practices include darshan, basic poojas, and offerings.

****Special poojas and their charges:****

Special poojas are performed during festivals like Navaratri (including Kanya Pooja). Details on charges for specific sevas (e.g., archana, abhisheka, etc.) should be obtained from the temple office. Annual events like Rathotsava (car festival) and Punarpratishtha/Brahmakalashabhisheka days occur.

****Festivals celebrated:****

Navaratri (major, with special poojas and festivities), Rathotsava, Punarpratishtha Day (around February), Sankranti-related events, and others aligned with the lunar calendar. It sees high footfall during Udupi's Krishna Janmashtami period as well.

****Facilities available for devotees such as accommodation:****

Limited facilities on the hill (carry water/snacks). There is a bhojana shale for meals. Some inquiries mention temple rooms, but confirmation is needed. Nearby accommodation is available in Udupi or Katpadi. Modest dress, comfortable footwear for steps, and respect for sanctity are advised.

****Do's and don'ts:****

Dress modestly, remove footwear before entering, maintain silence and cleanliness, follow temple timings. Photography may be restricted in sanctum. Respect the sacred theerthas and surroundings.

****Nearby temples:****

Pajaka Kshetra (Madhvacharya's birthplace, very close), Udupi Sri Krishna Matha, Parashurama Temple (adjacent), and other Udupi-area temples.

****Nearby hotels:****

Options in Udupi (e.g., various budget to mid-range hotels near Krishna Temple) or Katpadi. Examples include homestays and lodges; search for current availability in Udupi.

****Nearby tourist spots:****

Malpe Beach (~18 km), Manipal End Point (viewpoint, ~8 km), Udupi town attractions, Western Ghats scenery, and other coastal spots.

****Donation info with contact phone number:****

Donations support maintenance; contact the temple for details on sevas, endowments, or online options (website may be inactive—verify).

****Contact:****

- Phone: 0820-2559444, 0820-2009009
- Email: kunjarugiri@gmail.com
- Address: Shree Durgadevi Temple, Kunjarugiri, Udupi – 574105.

****Any other info:****

The temple offers a blend of devotion and nature. Visit early morning or evening for serenity and views. It is a peaceful spot popular with locals and pilgrims. For the latest pooja schedules, seva charges, or facilities, call the temple directly as details can change. Always check for festival crowds.

Appendix:

****Sapta Durga Kshetras (or Sapta Durgas) of Tulunadu**** refer to seven revered Durga/Shakti temples in the coastal Karnataka region (primarily Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts). These are considered powerful sister goddesses who protect the land of Tulunadu (created by Lord Parashurama according to legend). They are often visited together, especially on Fridays, for spiritual merit, protection, and fulfillment of wishes. Many devotees aim to complete the circuit in one day.

The Seven Temples (Commonly Accepted List)

Here is the typical order for visiting (starting from the eldest sister):

1. ****Chitrapura Durgaparameshwari Temple**** (Chitrapur/Chithrapura)
 - Location: Near Surathkal/Hampanakatta, about 12 km from Mangalore.
 - Significance: Considered the eldest sister. Ancient Shakti sthal with strong local devotion.
2. ****Sasihitlu (Sasihithlu) Bhagavathi Temple****
 - Location: Sasihithlu, near Mangalore.
 - Significance: Dedicated to Bhagavathi, a powerful form of Shakti. Temple timings are typically early morning to afternoon and evening.
3. ****Polali Rajarajeshwari Temple****
 - Location: Polali, Dakshina Kannada district.
 - Significance: Ancient temple (8th century origins) dedicated to Shri Rajarajeshwari. Developed by various dynasties. A major Shakti center.

4. ****Kateel (Kateelu) Durga Parameshwari Temple****

- Location: Kateel, on an islet in the Nandini River, about 26-30 km from Mangalore.
- Significance: Highly popular temple town. The goddess is believed to be very powerful. Scenic location with river surroundings. Famous for Navaratri and other festivals. Official site: kateeldevi.in.

5. ****Bappanadu Durgaparameshwari Temple****

- Location: Bappanadu, Mulki (about 29 km north of Mangalore), on the banks of the Shambhavi River.
- Significance: Unique legend involving a Muslim merchant (Bappa) who contributed to the temple. The deity is in Linga form. Known for harmony (Muslims can receive prasada) and its Brahma Rathotsava festival in April. Famous for traditional Dolu (drums).

6. ****Mundkur Durga Parameshwari Temple****

- Location: Mundkur, near Karkala, Udupi district.
- Significance: Ancient temple with associated deities like Ganapathi and Bhutas (e.g., Doomavathy, Varahi). Part of the protective network of Tulunadu.

7. ****Kunjarugiri Sri Durga Devi Temple**** (as detailed previously)

- Location: Kunjarugiri Hill (Durga Betta), near Udupi (about 11 km).
- Significance: Hilltop temple with Parashurama connection, scenic views, and links to Madhvacharya. Often the sixth or seventh in the circuit.

Legend and Speciality

According to local folklore, these seven goddesses (sisters) incarnated to protect Tulunadu after slaying demons. They are stronger collectively and watch over the region. Parashurama is closely associated with installing or blessing many of these shrines. The temples blend Shaiva, Shakta, and local Tulu traditions, including Bhuta worship. Visiting all seven is believed to bring immense blessings, safety, and prosperity.

How to Explore / Visiting Tips

- ****Best time****: Fridays are especially auspicious. Navaratri (Sept-Oct) sees grand celebrations across temples. Early morning starts help cover all in a day.
- ****Route****: A coastal/road circuit from Mangalore-Udupi area is feasible by car/taxi (self-drive or hired). Public buses and autos connect most spots, but a private vehicle is more convenient for the full Sapta Darshana.
- ****Duration****: 1 full day for darshan circuit; more if exploring each deeply.
- ****Practicalities****: Temples are generally open early morning to evening (timings vary—confirm locally). Modest dress, no footwear inside, photography restrictions in sanctums. Carry water, snacks, and cash for offerings/donations.
- ****Facilities****: Most have basic amenities; larger ones like Kateel have more (prasada, shops). Nearby towns (Mangalore, Udupi) offer hotels, food, and stays.

****Nearby attractions**** while exploring: Udupi Sri Krishna Temple, Pajaka Kshetra, Malpe Beach, Mangalore city temples, and Western Ghats spots.

For the latest timings, pooja details, or festival schedules, contact individual temples or check local tourism sites. This circuit beautifully combines devotion, nature, and Tulu cultural heritage.

Ref: ClaudeAI

Kunjarugiri Sri Durga Devi Temple, Udupi — Overview

Location

The temple sits atop Kunjarugiri Hill (also called Durgabetta or Vimanagiri), about 11 km from Udupi Krishna Matha (Tripadvisor) , near the village of Katpadi, off the Mangalore–Udupi–Goa highway. The address is Kunjarugiri, Karnataka 574115. (Kunjarugiri)

How to Get There

- Easily accessible by road; autos can be hired from Udupi, and vehicles can go right up to the temple on the hillock. (Tripadvisor)
- Alternatively, there are around 250 steps to climb (Tripadvisor) for those who want the traditional pilgrim approach.
- Nearest major town: Katpadi (a few km away); nearest airport: Mangalore International Airport. y accessible by road; autos can be hired from Udupi, and vehicles can go right up to the temple on the hillock. (Tripadvisor)

Speciality of This Temple

- It's one of the few Durga shrines believed to be self-installed by Lord Parashurama, not a human-consecrated idol.
- It is intimately linked with Sri Madhwacharya — Sri Madhwacharya spent a large part of his childhood here (Tripadvisor) , and his birthplace, Pajaka Kshetra, is barely a kilometre away.
- Local people affectionately call the goddess "Kunjaramma." (Blogger)
- A unique custom during Sharannavaratri: the Swamiji of Sri Admaru Matha brings the Matha's presiding deity, Sri Kaliyamardana Krishna, to the temple and offers Mahapuja, keeping the idol in "Ekanta" with Durga Devi in the sanctum, symbolizing their divine union. (Shrilahari)
- Swamijis of all the Ashta Mathas visit and worship the Goddess here before ascending the Paryaya Peetham at Udupi Krishna Matha (Shrilahari) — making it a key stop in Udupi's Paryaya tradition.
- There's a sacred rock behind the shrine said to grow over time; when trustees once tried to cut it for easier pradakshina, it reportedly "bled," and a Prashna (divination) revealed it was formed by the Goddess's tiger vahana. (WordPress)

History and Legends

Kunjaru is a hamlet in Kurkaal grama, about 11 km southeast of Udupi, reputed for the celebrated Durga temple on the hillock known as Kunjarugiri, Durgabetta, and Vimanagiri. (Shivalli Brahmins) The hills, abodes of Durga and Parashurama, resemble a "Kunjara" (elephant), giving the place its name "Kunjaragiri/Kunjarugiri." (Shivalli Brahmins) It is also called "Vimanagiri" because, legend says, gods and goddesses arrived by Vimana to shower flowers when Jagannatha Durga was installed by Lord Parashurama. (Shivalli Brahmins)

Theologically, Durga Devi here is identified with Yogamaya — the same power that transferred the unborn Shesha from Devaki's womb to Rohini's, enabling Krishna's birth, and that later took form as Yashoda's daughter Durga while putting Kamsa's guards to sleep so Vasudeva could safely carry baby Krishna away. (Blogger)

Lord Parashurama is believed to still be performing penance in a cave to the east, below Durgabetta. (Blogger) Literary references appear in classical Dvaita works: Sumadhwa Vijaya by Narayana Panditacharya and Theerthaprabandha by Vadiraja Gurusarvabhoumaru both eulogize Durgadevi of Vimanagiri, and the Dasa Sahitya tradition — Vijayadasaru in particular — sings the glory of Parashurama and Durga of Kunjarugiri. (WordPress)

Architecture

- The temple can be approached from four different directions — by road, by steps, or by climbing the hill. (Blogger)
- Reviewers describe the architecture as a blend of traditional and modern styles, with the sacred energy of the Durga idol and breathtaking surrounding views. (Wanderlog)
- Unusually, the Nirmalya Devata "Mundini" here is depicted as a seated idol — most temples represent this deity by a plain stone, making Kunjarugiri an exception. (Shrilahari)
- Because of its hilltop elevation, the temple has no natural water source; water for daily worship is carried up from Bana Theertha or Gada Theertha, and more than six large copper pots are needed daily, each taking over eight minutes to carry uphill. (Shrilahari)

Main Deity and Sub-Deities

Main Deity: Sri Durga Devi, in Chaturbhuja (four-armed) form, holding the Shanka (conch) and Chakra (discus) in the upper hands, and Dhanus (bow) and Trishula (trident) in the lower hands — the conch and discus symbolizing protection of the righteous (Sishta Rakshana), and the bow and trident symbolizing destruction of evil (Dushta Samhara). (Shivalli Brahmins) The fallen Mahishasura is shown stamped under her feet, his horns representing the ego that makes us forget God — destroyed by the Goddess. (Shivalli Brahmins)

Sub-deity: Nirmalya Devata "Mundini," installed in the praakaara to the left of Devi, shown seated — unique to this temple. (Shrilahari)

Daily Rituals and Poojas

- Regular poojas begin from 5:30 AM onwards. (Tripadvisor)
- Strict purity is observed: the Archakas (priests), Keelu Shanti (who prepares Naivedyam), and Udaka Shanti (who fetches water) all fast until the Mahapuja is completed, with every ritual offered with the chintanam of Durgaantaryami Lakshmi Narayana. (Shrilahari)
- One reviewer notes general timings roughly 6:00 AM–12:00 PM and 5:00 PM–8:30 PM, though this was reported for a nearby Udupi-area Durga temple, so please confirm exact darshan hours by phone.
- Annadanam (free meals) is offered, though one visitor noted food is specifically available on Fridays. (Wanderlog)

Pooja/Seva Charges

The temple's official online "Seva List" exists at kunjarugiri.in but I wasn't able to pull current rupee figures from it directly (the page blocks automated access). I don't want to quote stale or guessed numbers for something devotees will pay — **please call the temple directly (see contact below) or check kunjarugiri.in's Seva List page for current tariffs** on Archane, Abhisheka, Kumkumarchane, Pushpanjali, Panchamrita Abhisheka, Sahasranama, Chandi Homa, and similar sevas.

Special Poojas / Festivals

- Navaratri/Sharadanavaratri is the major festival — Kanya Pooja during Navratri is one of the most important rituals here (Wanderlog) , alongside the special Krishna–Durga "Ekanta" union ritual mentioned above.
- Dasara-period sevas at sister Durga Parameshwari temples in the region typically include Chandi Homa, and similar special homas are likely offered here too — confirm with the temple.
- Daily and festival worship follows patterns linked closely to Admaru Matha's own ritual calendar.

Facilities for Devotees

- Staying options are available in Udupi town (about 16 km away) rather than at the temple itself. (itslife.in)
- Amenities include guided darshan, puja services, prasad offerings, and annadanam. (Wanderlog)
- Limited amenities on the hill itself — devotees are advised to carry water and light snacks. (Udupi Tourism)

Do's and Don'ts

- Wear comfortable footwear since the temple involves climbing steps on a hill. (Udupi Tourism)
- Dress modestly to respect the sanctity of the temple. (Udupi Tourism)
- Carry water and light snacks, as amenities on the hill are limited. (Udupi Tourism)

- Best visited early morning or evening for cooler weather and scenic views. (Udupi Tourism)

Nearby Temples

- Sri Parashurama Temple, Kunjarugiri — just 500 m away, on Vimana Giri Hill, dedicated to Parashurama, the sixth avatar of Vishnu, with Vijayanagar-period idol artistry and notably no gopura over the sanctum. (Udupi Tourism)
- Pajaka Kshetra — birthplace of Madhwacharya, less than a km away. (Tripadvisor)
- Udupi Sri Krishna Matha — about 13 km away. (Udupi Tourism)
- Other regional Durga Parameshwari shrines: Kateel, Bappanadu, Mandarthi, Kamalashile, and others along the coast. (WordPress)

Nearby Tourist Spots

- Manipal End Point — a scenic viewpoint about 8 km away. (Udupi Tourism)
- Malpe Beach — around 18 km away. (Udupi Tourism)
- Katapadi Beach — a quieter, less-crowded beach about 8 km away. (Udupi Tourism)
- The four sacred theerthas (Parashu, Dhanus, Bana, Gada) created by Parashurama, located around the hill, whose water is used for Durga Devi's abhisheka. (Blogger)

Nearby Hotels

Most accommodation is in Udupi town itself (10–16 km away) — a range of budget to mid-range hotels are available there, since the hill itself has no lodging. I can pull up a live list of specific hotels near Udupi if that would help — just let me know.

Donations / Contact

- Devotees can send seva remittances by money order, cheque, or demand draft to the temple address, or remit directly to the temple's bank account (Corporation Bank, Kurkal Branch, Shankarapura). (Kunjarugiri)
- A listed contact number for the temple area is +91-820-2559444 (per TripHobo's listing) (TripHobo) — I'd recommend verifying this is current before relying on it, since visitor directories aren't always updated.
- Temple administration is under Sri Admaru Matha, currently headed by Sri Sri 1008 Sri Vishwapriya Tirtha Swamiji. (Tripadvisor)

Other Notes

- The temple has an official website, kunjarugiri.in, with a Seva List and "About Temple" section in both English and Kannada — useful for the latest seva rates and Matha announcements.
- Visitors mention around 200–250 steps if climbing on foot, and confirm the temple is well-maintained with a beautiful top-of-hill view. (Wanderlog)

Kunjarugiri Sri Durga Devi Temple, Udupi, Karnataka

Here is a practical guide to **Kunjarugiri Sri Durga Devi Temple, Udupi, Karnataka**.

The temple is a hilltop shrine about 13 km from Udupi and 4.4 km from Katpadi, managed by Adamaru Math; its main deity is Chaturbahu Durga Devi, and the hill setting is one of its biggest attractions [1].

Location and access

Kunjarugiri is in Udupi district, near Katpadi, on a hill called Kunjarugiri Hill / Durga Betta / Vimanagiri [1][2]. It is generally reached by road from Udupi, and vehicles can go up to the hilltop; there are also steps for devotees who wish to climb [3][4]. A practical landmark is that it is around 11 km from Udupi in several travel references, so road signs and local auto services from Udupi are useful [3][2][5].

Speciality and significance

The temple is famous for its powerful hilltop setting, scenic views, and strong mythological association with Lord Parashurama [1][2]. Local tradition says Parashurama installed the deity and created the surrounding sacred tanks or teerthas, which adds to the site's religious importance [2][6]. It is also linked to Madhvacharya's early life and is considered important in the spiritual geography of Udupi [2][7].

History and legends

The dominant legend says Lord Parashurama installed Goddess Durga here after creating the land, and the idol was adorned with a pearl nose ring in a related story [2][6]. Another tradition says the hill resembles an elephant, which is why the place is connected with the name "Kunjara" and the temple is also called Kunjaru Amma temple locally [2][5]. The temple is also described as being connected to the Vijayanagara era in some travel sources, though the mythological narrative is much stronger in popular tradition [8].

Architecture and deity

The main deity is described as **Chaturbahu Durga Devi** standing on a lotus pedestal, with conch and chakra in the upper hands and trident and bow in the lower hands [1]. The image of Mahishasura near the right leg is part of the iconography described by Udupi Tourism [1]. The temple's hilltop architecture is modest but visually striking because the whole shrine sits on a high rock hill with expansive views around it [1][2].

Rituals and poojas

Public sources confirm that regular poojas start from about ****5:30 am onwards**** [3]. However, I could not verify an official published list of daily ritual names and exact charges from reliable public pages in the available sources, so I do not want to invent numbers. For current pooja types, special seva charges, and booking details, the safest practical route is to confirm directly with the temple office using the contact details below [9][10].

Festivals and visitors

The available sources do not provide a complete official festival calendar, but as a Durga temple it is typically associated with Navaratri/Dussehra-style observances in the local region; this should be treated as general cultural expectation rather than a verified temple-specific schedule. The temple is especially pleasant in early morning and evening because of the hill views and quieter darshan experience [1]. Many visitors combine it with nearby sacred sites in Udupi and Pajaka [1][7].

Facilities and etiquette

Visitor-facing sources note that the temple is accessible by road and steps, but amenities on the hill are limited, so carrying water and wearing comfortable footwear is recommended [1][4]. Dress modestly and maintain temple decorum, especially since it is an active pilgrimage shrine [1]. I could not verify official accommodation run by the temple itself from the sources reviewed, so treat lodging as something to arrange in Udupi town rather than expecting temple guest rooms [1][11][12].

Nearby places

Nearby temples and spiritual places mentioned in the sources include ****Udupi Sri Krishna Matha****, ****Sri Parashurama Temple, Kunjarugiri****, ****Pajaka Kshetra****, and ****Anantheshwara Temple, Udupi**** [1][7]. Tourist spots cited nearby include ****Manipal End Point**** and ****Malpe Beach**** [1]. For hotels, travel-booking pages list many options near the temple, though they are mostly booking aggregators rather than official hotel lists [11][12][13].

Contact and donations

The temple contact number reported in public listings is ****0820-2559444**** and ****0820-2009009**** within India; the same source also lists the postal address as The Manager, Shree Durgadevi Temple, Kunjarugiri, Udupi – 574105, Karnataka [9]. A Justdial listing also repeats the phone number ****0820-2559444**** [10]. I did not find a verified public donations page with bank details in the sources reviewed, so any donation or sevas should be confirmed directly with the temple office before transfer [9][10].

At a glance

Item	Verified information
Temple name	Kunjarugiri Shri Durga Devi Temple udupitourism
Location	Kunjarugiri Hill, about 13 km from Udupi and 4.4 km from Katpadi udupitourism
Main deity	Chaturbahu Durga Devi udupitourism
Managed by	Adamaru Math udupitourism
Access	Road access available; steps also available tripadvisor +1
Opening ritual note	Regular poojas from about 5:30 am onwards tripadvisor
Contact numbers	0820-2559444, 0820-2009009 youtube +1

Ref: shivallibrahmins.com

Sri Durga Devi Temple, Kunjarugiri



Sri Durga Devi, Kunjarugiri

Kunjaru is a hamlet in Kurkaal grama, situated 6-7 miles (approximately 11kms) to the south-east of Shree Krishna's Udupi.

This small village is reputed for its sanctity owing to the celebrated Durga Temple on a high hillock popularly known by the names: Kunjarugiri, Durgabetta and Vimanagiri.. This potent Durga Saannidhya, which was installed by none other than Lord Parashurama.

The high hills, abodes of Shree Durga and Lord Parashurama, look like "Kunjara" (Elephant) for which the place is known as "Kunjaragiri" or "Kunjarugiri".

It is also reputed as "Vimanagiri" because the Gods and Goddesses came by "Vimana" to offer floral tribute, when Jaganmatha Durga was installed on the hill by the Lord Parashurama.

Sacred association of Vishwaguru Shri Madhwacharya – gives it a prominent place in the spiritual sphere.

The ancient Durga temple stands on the top of Vimanagiri amidst the lush green groves of hilly serenity. This very serene location of the temple, its antiquity and the divinity of the magnificent idol of the Goddess, at once creates a memorable feeling of long lasting devotion and piety in the hearts of the devotees. It has been the experience of every devotee who visits the temple for worship. The devotees feel the spiritual solace and the potent protection at the feet of Durgadevi. The holy atmosphere in and around the shrine, the holy Theerthas, the Lord Parashurama Temple and the nearness to Paajaka Kshetra makes it an important place for the pilgrims.

The significance in the idol (Vishwa Roopa Darshana):



Vishwa Roopa Darshana

The magnificent idol of Shree Durga is a Chaturbhuja (four-armed) image. It stands holding the Shanka (conch) and Chakra (discus) in the upper hands and Dhanus (bow) and Trishula (trident) are being held in the lower hands.

Shanka and Chakra symbolizes protection and the fulfillment of wishes of the good (sishta rakshana), while Dhanus and Trishula symbolizes the destruction of the evil (dushta samhaara). The fallen Mahishasura stamped under the feet signifies the suppression and destruction of evil .The horns on the head of the fallen demon Mahishasura represents the egotism in us! This makes us forget God. But the idol shows and symbolizes the destruction of such ego.

How to Reach:

Kunjarugiri is approximately 11 Kilometers from Shree Krishna Matha in Udupi.
5 KMs away from Katapadi , 2 KMs away from Subhasnagar / Kunjarugiri Cross road.

Contact details:

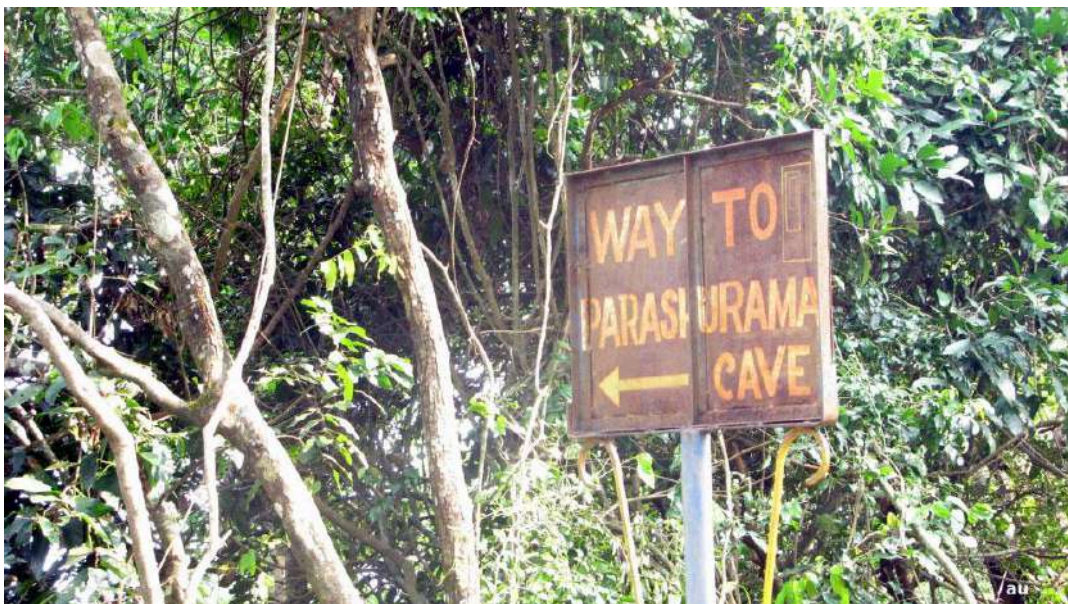
Shree Durgadevi temple,
Kunjarugiri,
Udupi – 574105

Phone: 0820-2559444, 0820-2009009

E-Mail: kunjarugiri@gmail.com

Web: <http://kunjarugiri.in>

Photos



Way to Parashurama cave



Parashurama cave



Rathotsava



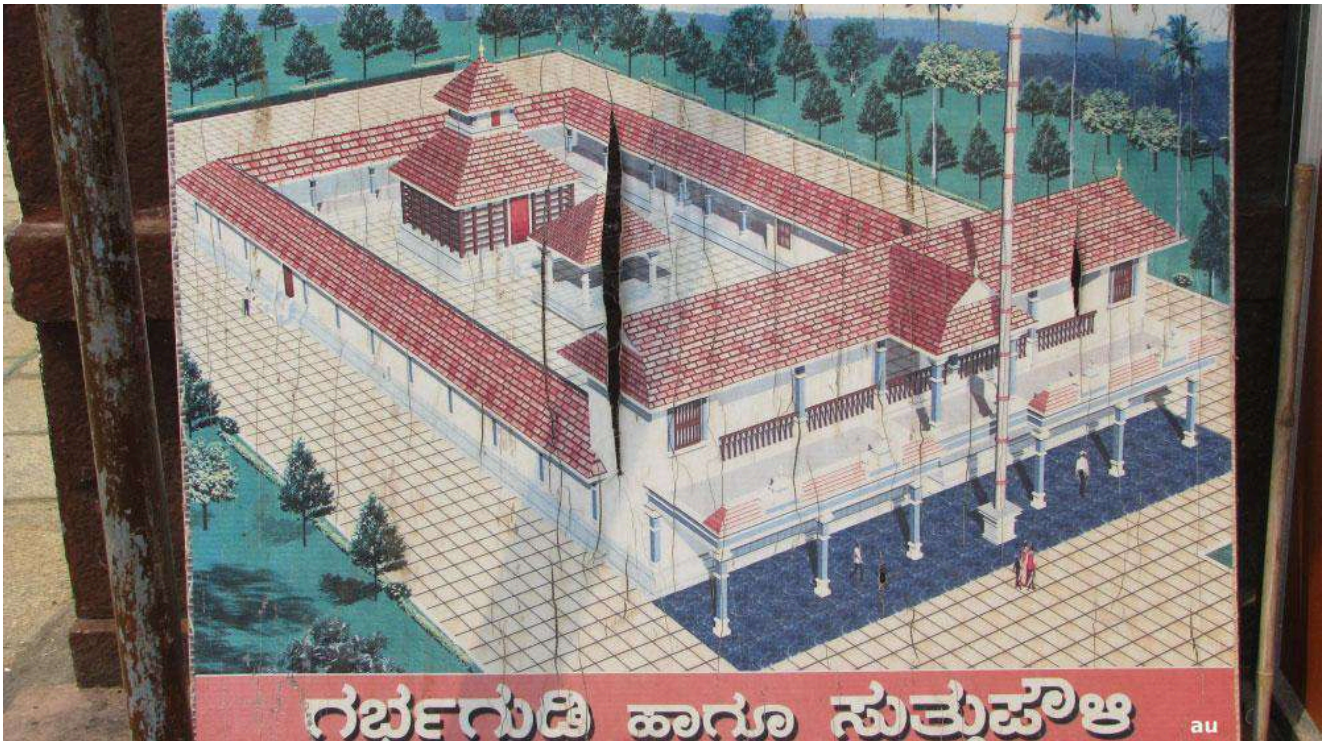
Teertha mantapa



New “Bhojana shala”



Parivara devate: Nandeeshwara







New Yagashale













Videos

Pajaka kshetra ...Madhwacharya's moola kshetra (9 min):

<https://youtu.be/acFhpi-rWCM?si=e-W5cYRo-b1pKuat>

History of Kunjarugiri Temple(15 min):

<https://youtu.be/pbmEHQW58YA?si=jh8Klv6aSrFvqBN0>

Divine power of Kunjarugiri Durga Temple (21 min):

https://youtu.be/_SkVWNTGP5s?si=fG07P2pXAH7-l9Mv

Kunjarugiri Sri Durga Devi...by Dr. Shiva (10 min):

<https://youtu.be/xx5eFXh4lgA?si=kj5XUH5FHzmIQK->

Kunjarugiri Sri Durga Devi ...by Udayavani (16 min):

<https://youtu.be/XVqeLXs-eBY?si=TJ7mVZGLDLRLurdL>

Kunjarugiri Sri Durga Devi Temple (4 min):

<https://youtu.be/KoK5hlx7up4?si=b8lobelK1cbXRCwU>

Note: At the end of this ebook (see below), two pages are included (see below), giving (i) Author info, and (ii) a master link and QR code to download all my Technical (viz. Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering) ebooks plus Spiritual ebooks, stored in archive.org.

About the Author

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar is a Mechanical Engineer with specialization in Cryogenics. He obtained his B. E. In Mechanical Engineering from Karnataka Regional Engg College, (Now NITK), Surathkal, India and M.Sc. in Cryogenics from the University of Southampton, U.K., and Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

He has worked in prestigious organizations such as BARC, Bombay and Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT), Indore, as Head of Cryogenics Dept and contributed to the design of cryogenic systems, including the Thermovac chamber for ISRO, Bangalore.

He was also a visiting fellow at Superconducting Super Collider Project, at Texas, USA.

He has also served as Professor, Head of Department, and Principal in reputed engineering institutions.

Dr. Thirumaleshwar has authored a large number of FREE ebooks on Engineering subjects such as Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering, which are useful for students and teachers.

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All his ebooks are available for free download at [Archive.org](https://archive.org).

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
June 25, 2026
